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Letter dated 21 May 2003 from the Permanent Representatives of Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from our respective Governments, we have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the final communiqué adopted during the working and friendship visit of H.E. Mr. Youssouf Ouedraogo, Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso, to Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, on 8 and 9 May 2003 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as documents of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Djessan Philippe **Djangone-Bi**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations

(*Signed*) François **Oubida**
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 21 May 2003 from the Permanent Representatives of Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Working and friendship visit of H.E. Mr. Youssouf Ouedraogo, Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso

Abidjan, 8 and 9 May 2003

Final communiqué

1. Pursuant to a proposal by H.E. Mr. Laurent Gbagbo, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, and H.E. Mr. Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso, H.E. Mr. Youssouf Ouedraogo, Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso paid a working and friendship visit to Côte d'Ivoire on 8 and 9 May 2003.

Minister of State Youssouf Ouedraogo was accompanied by a large delegation which included:

- Mr. Benoît Ouattara, Minister of Trade, Industry and Crafts;
- Mr. Patrice Nikiema, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Infrastructure, Transport and Urban Planning responsible for Transport;
- Mr. Yéro Boly, Director of the Cabinet of the President of Burkina Faso; and their colleagues.

2. During their visit, the Minister of State of Burkina Faso and his delegation held a working session with a delegation from the Ivorian Government headed by H.E. Mr. Patrick Achi, Minister of State for Economic Infrastructure, representing H.E. Mr. Mamadou Bamba, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

The Ivorian delegation also included:

- Mr. Théodore Mel Eg, Minister of State for African Integration;
- Mr. Innocent Kobenan Anaky, Minister of State for Transport;
- Mr. Zémogo Fofana, Minister of Higher Education and Acting Minister of Security;
- Mr. Sébastien Djédjé Dano, Minister of National Reconciliation;
- Mr. Adou Assoa, Minister of Water Resources and Forestry and Acting Minister of Defence;
- Ms. Victorine Gboko-Dailly Wodié, Minister for Human Rights.

This session focused on bilateral relations between the two countries.

3. After recognizing the interdependence of the two countries, the delegations of Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso reaffirmed their strong desire to work together to restore confidence.

To that end, they stressed the need to initiate and promote the process of dialogue with a view to restoring and strengthening the centuries-old relations of

friendship and brotherhood that existed between the peoples of Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso.

The two delegations agreed on the need to promote dialogue by establishing a coordination mechanism capable of creating new synergies in major areas of action such as:

- Trade and industry;
- Agriculture and livestock; and
- Transport

4. From the political perspective, the Government of Burkina Faso welcomes the reconciliation process under way in Côte d'Ivoire, which began with the formation of the Government of National Reconciliation, and invites the Burkina Faso community in Côte d'Ivoire to play an active role in that process.

The two delegations agreed to hold sectoral and technical meetings as a reflection of the two Governments' manifest political will to restore and renew economic and trade relations.

5. They also reaffirmed the need to make their borders secure, to ensure the free movement of goods and persons and to promote the protection of human rights.

They invited their respective Governments to establish a bilateral mechanism for monitoring their common border and invited political figures and the media to support their plans for more dynamic relations between the two countries.

6. Lastly, the delegations stressed the urgent need for the Côte d'Ivoire-Burkina Faso joint commission, inactive since 1997, to resume its work and for an acceleration of the process for the establishment of a joint commission for reconciliation and prevention of inter-community conflict, adopted by the two Governments in November 1999.

7. In the economic sphere, the delegations decided to take all possible action to accelerate a resumption of economic activity between the two countries.

In the light of the role played by the autonomous port of Abidjan in trade relations between Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso, the two delegations encourage the taking of all measures that will allow it to serve its purpose fully.

In that connection, the delegation of Burkina Faso drew attention to the situation of the goods being held up in the port of Abidjan and expressed the hope that a positive solution to the problem would soon be found.

It also stressed the need for a resumption of railway traffic and trade, particularly trade in livestock and meat, between the two countries under optimum security conditions and with minimal impediments.

The delegation of Burkina Faso welcomed the Ivorian Government's decision to lift the declaration of a war zone which covered a portion of Burkina Faso's territory.

8. It took the occasion to welcome the recent visit to Ouagadougou of a large official Ivorian delegation, headed by the Minister of Trade, which had marked the beginning of renewed dialogue between the business communities of the two countries.

9. The meetings between the two delegations were characterized by full agreement on all the issues raised and took place in a climate of cordiality, brotherhood, frankness and mutual understanding.

10. H.E. Mr. Ouedraogo, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation, paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Mr. Seydou Elimane Diarra, Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire.

11. Mr. Ouedraogo was also granted an audience with H.E. Mr. Laurent Gbagbo, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, at which he conveyed brotherly greetings from H.E. Mr. Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso.

12. On behalf of the President of Burkina Faso, Mr. Ouedraogo expressed his deep appreciation and gratitude to H.E. Mr. Laurent Gbagbo, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, and to the Ivorian Government and people for the warm welcome and brotherly hospitality extended to him and to his delegation during their visit.

13. Mr. Ouedraogo invited H.E. Mr. Mamadou Bamba, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire, to pay a friendship and working visit to Burkina Faso.

14. The head of the Ivorian delegation accepted this invitation on behalf of Minister of State Mamadou Bamba; the date of the visit will be determined by mutual agreement through the diplomatic channel.

Done at Abidjan on 9 May 2003

For Côte d'Ivoire:

(*Signed*) Mr. Patrick **Achi**
Minister of State
Minister for Economic Infrastructure
Acting Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

For Burkina Faso:

(*Signed*) Mr. Youssouf **Ouedraogo**
Minister of State
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation